

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are pending and rejected in this application.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection and submits that claims 1-3 and 5-15 do particularly point out distinctly claim the subject matter of Applicant's invention. The phrase 'releasably directly connected' describes how the pass-through connector is connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, which is disclosed in the drawings and the specification. The words individually describe how the pass-through connector is connected to electrical cable connector. For example, the pass-through connector is 'releasably' connected to the electrical cable connector in that it can be disconnected from each other. Further, the word 'directly' indicates that nothing is between the connection of the pass-through connector and the electrical cable connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-3 and 5-15 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,536,612 (Domigan), Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiners rejection. Domigan discloses a box for raised floors (Figs. 1 and 2) including a main housing 2 having sidewalls 4 and 5 (column 1, lines 31-33). Sidewalls 4 and 5 of the power sections each are provided with apertures to mount wire connectors 27 and 28. Conductors 30 and 31 connect the respective wire connectors 27 and 28 and receptacles 21 and 22 (column 2, lines 12-16). There is a power-thru feature in that connector 27 is a power-in connector and connector 28 is a power-out connector thereby allowing a daisy chain connection of multiple boxes (column 3, lines 6-15 and the Figs.).

In contrast, claim 1 as amended, recites in part:

at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of said housing.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Domigan or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wire to receptacles 21 and 22 respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. What Domigan does not show is a connector that directly connects to either connector 27 or 28 on the inside of the box to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Domigan simply does not illustrate or disclose a connector directly connected to connector 27, which the Examiner has indicated as a pass-through connector. The disadvantage of Domigan is that the rewiring of the internal portion of the floor box requires a separation of wires rather than separation of connectors, thereby requiring additional time for reconfiguration of the under floor box. For example, access through opening 50 may allow an operator to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected to connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 by another connector connected thereto, as in the Applicant's invention. Therefore, Domigan and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited reference, in that the pass-through connector allows the disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disengaging a connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 15 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance,

which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10, as amended, recites in part:

a pass-through connector... releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Domigan or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wire to receptacles 21 and 22 respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. What Domigan does not show is a connector that directly connects to either connector 27 or 28 on the inside of the box to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Domigan simply does not illustrate or disclose a connector directly connected to connector 27, which the Examiner has indicated as a pass-through connector. The disadvantage of Domigan is that the rewiring of the internal portion of the floor box requires a separation of wires rather than separation of connectors, thereby requiring additional time for reconfiguration of the under floor box. For example, access through opening 50 may allow an operator to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected to connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 by another connector connected thereto, as in the Applicant's invention. Therefore, Domigan and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box, as recited in claim 10.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited reference, in that the pass-through connector allows the disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disconnecting a connector connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10 and claims 11, 12 and 14 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested

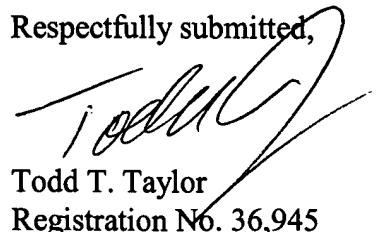
Claims 6-8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Domigan in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,041 (Bowman). However, claims 6-8 depend from claim 1 and claim 13 depends from claim 10, and claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6-8 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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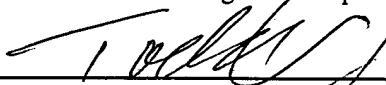
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: September 29, 2004.

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Name of Registered Representative


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September 29, 2004

Date

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